

VI. Pending issues & urgent needs regarding the safeguarding of ICH

Q1. Is any of the intangible cultural heritage in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation?

As per the findings of the field study, there are many intangible cultural heritages that are in danger of disappearance. As per the information obtained from field survey, Dandi Biyo (a traditional game), some of the folklores, folk musical instruments, Kusunda language, some songs (melody) for example Jyomare (Magar song) and Sairela (Bhaili), other many dances are in danger of disappearance.

In fact there is need for research for listing the disappeared and disappearing ICH in Nepal.

Q2. What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific.

As per the findings from the field survey there are very few researches on ICH. The researches are mainly for the purpose of fulfilling of the partial requirement of academic qualification eg Bachelor thesis and Master Degree thesis. So, it is very difficult to list down the reasons behind however some of them, as obtained from the field survey, could be listed as following:

- No specific state policies on ICH,
- Low level of awareness with ICH perspectives,
- No specific programs from government on ICH and nominal fund allocation in annual program of government on ICH,

There are no any specific safeguarding measures except providing funds from national treasury for observing various festive events. The municipalities have been launching awareness raising programs through media on different culture and cultural events. The Nepal Academy, cultural corporations are organizing different events which are found very supportive for safeguarding of ICH in Nepal. Above all, the communities are playing outstanding role in safeguarding of ICH through observing various festive events, rituals, performance and so on in the name of traditions.

Q3. What are the pending issues for safeguarding ICH in your country that you have found through interviews and the field survey?

Though we have been practicing various festive events, rituals, performances, traditional, using different traditional knowledge and skills in our everyday life and considered them as our cultural heritage, they are found lacking of from established ICH perspective.

Nepal has just become the party of Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 in 2010 so following things could be considered as some of the things that need immediate address:

- Developing of ICH National Policy,
- Promoting of in depth research on ICH,
- Defining and categorizing ICH,
- Development of a national inventory,
- Mobilizing of local authority for developing of Local ICH Inventory,
- Enhancing capacity at all levels,
- Mobilizing of media and communities,

Q4. What kind of problems and difficulties were encountered during the safeguarding projects?

- Low level of awareness on ICH perspectives,
- Policy gap,
- Capacity gap,
- Limited research,
- In significant space for ICH in government annual program and budget,
- High dependency on the communities as continued traditions,

Q5. What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?

As per the lesson learned from this field survey Nepal NtaCom will explore development partners for conducting researches on ICH. Nepal NatCom will establish and strengthen networking with in-country institutions working with ICH and indirectly supporting for safeguarding of ICH. In addition, Nepal Natcom will explore for capacity building opportunities as trainings, exposure visits, cultural exchange programs etc for policy personnel, community people, performers etc.

Q6. What type of contributions and cooperation from the international society is needed for the safeguarding of ICH in your country?

- Technical support for developing of ICH inventory,
- Opportunities for sharing of best practices,
- Trainings, exposure visits,
- Fund support for research and documentation, etc

Q7. What role do you expect ICHCAP to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region in terms of programmes, projects, etc.?

- Joint programs for capacity building,
- Technical supports for developing ICH inventory and documenting of ICHs,
- Cultural exchange programs,
- Intercultural dialogues,
- Organizing of cultural events,
- Sharing of best practices,
- Fund supporting for research initiatives, etc.

Q8. Please include any requests and/or suggestions you have on this matter.

- ICHCAP should organize a round table meeting for ICH experts from Asia and the Pacific region for developing of ICH Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific,
- ICHCAP should develop a roster on ICH experts,
- Networking between National Commissions for UNESCO could be very important for the promotion of inter and intra governmental collaboration for ICH,
- ICHCAP should ask National Commissions of Asia Pacific region for designating an ECH focal point in their respective national commissions for monitoring and reporting to ICHCAP on progress and problems. In addition, the focal point could be made accountable for sharing of best practices on ICH,
- ICHCAP should host a web updating with best practices in Asia and the Pacific Region, etc

Q9. What should be considered to encourage or to ensure active involvement from the community in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage?

- Regional events on ICH as exhibitions, fairs etc in collaboration with member state's national commission and ministry of culture could be organized in rotation in different member states,
- Cultural exchange programs should be organized regularly,
- ICHCAP could publish and distribute an annual report comprising of best practices in Asia and the Pacific region, etc.